

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

Claims 38-49, 52-55, and 57-58 remain in this application. Claims 52-55 and 57-58 have previously been withdrawn from consideration, without prejudice.

1. Specification

The Examiner has indicated various informalities or typographical errors in the specification, which have been corrected above as appropriate.

2. § 103 Rejections

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 38-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over Bacon et al (US Patent No. 6,027,062) in view of Raasch (US Patent No. 4,891,933).

The Examiner asserts that Bacon discloses an apparatus and method of threading a moving length of fiber through a component in a fiber draw, fiber winding or fiber testing process. The Examiner submits that "Raasch teaches activating an aspirator, in response to a spool being full or a break in the fiber, to obtain the fiber at a first location and moving the fiber to a second location to thread the fiber through a component in the fiber draw process." Applicants respectfully disagree. Raasch relates to a method of spinning yarn, and does not suggest winding fiber during a fiber draw process.

The Examiner admits that Bacon fails to teach the positioning devices and aspirator, but submits that "It would have been obvious to one of skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the positioning device of Bacon to include an aspirator to hold the fiber as suggested by Raasch, to hold the fiber with transferring and threading the fiber without causing damage to the fiber."

Applicants respectfully disagree. First, it is not clear what aspirator in Raasch the Examiner is proposing to use in the apparatus which is disclosed in Bacon, nor is it clear how the device in Bacon would be modified to employ any of the aspirators used in Raasch. Furthermore, there does not appear to be any motivation in either of the references to modify the teachings of Bacon to utilize the aspirator in Raasch to transfer and thread the fiber disclosed in Bacon.

With respect to Claim 39, again, Applicants do not understand which aspirator in Raasch is going to be substituted into the device in Bacon. In fact, it does not appear that any of the aspirators employed in Raasch could be substituted into the device of Bacon so that the elements of Claim 39 are met. Prior to Applicants' invention, there was clearly no mention or suggestion in any of the art of utilizing an aspirator to move fiber so that it can be threaded between different pulleys and thereafter retain the fiber in contact with those different pulleys. As Claims 40 through 49 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 39, it is submitted that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

4. Conclusion

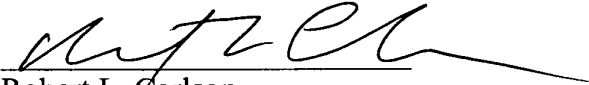
Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of record, Applicants believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending Claims 38-49 and a prompt Notice of Allowance thereon.

Please direct any questions or comments to Robert L. Carlson at 607/974-3502.

Respectfully submitted,

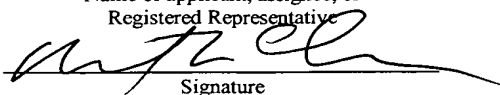
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Date: December 28, 2005


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